



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TENNCARE MEMBERS WATCH FOR LETTERS ELIGIBILITY REVIEW UNDERWAY FOR NEW PROGRAM DESIGN

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – TennCare is stepping up eligibility review of all members, today posting 135,000 letters to enrollees who must show they are still eligible for the health insurance program. The letters are being sent to uninsured and uninsurable members and represent the first mailing of its size since TennCare's new five-year federal agreement went into effect on July 1, 2002. TennCare is the managed care health insurance program for 1.4 million Tennesseans who are poor, disabled or uninsured.

"TennCare members will need to follow the instructions of their letters and visit their local Department of Human Services (DHS) office so we can make sure they continue to have access to health care insurance," said TennCare Director Manny Martins. "We're committed to seeing that deserving Tennesseans remain in TennCare and that members continue to have access to health care."

TennCare members who have a physical disability, mental illness or other health conditions should call their local DHS office to request special help in order to see if they are still eligible. Members who have moved in the past year can make sure TennCare has their correct address by calling the TennCare Information Line at 1-800-669-1851.

TennCare has formed a response team that can quickly address any problems arising from eligible members not receiving their letters, or not completing the eligibility review process. Members who have any difficulties should call their local DHS office for help, or call the TennCare Information Line.

In the first week of July, over 11,000 letters were mailed to members who had not used services in over a year. The first mailing also included 700 Medicare recipients who are not Medicaid eligible and who enrolled in TennCare after January 1, 2002.

TennCare began on January 1, 1994. According to the latest federal data, TennCare has the lowest per person cost of any Medicaid program in the nation. Through TennCare, Tennessee offers health care insurance to people who are eligible for Medicaid as well as those who are uninsurable and people who do not have access to health care insurance.

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